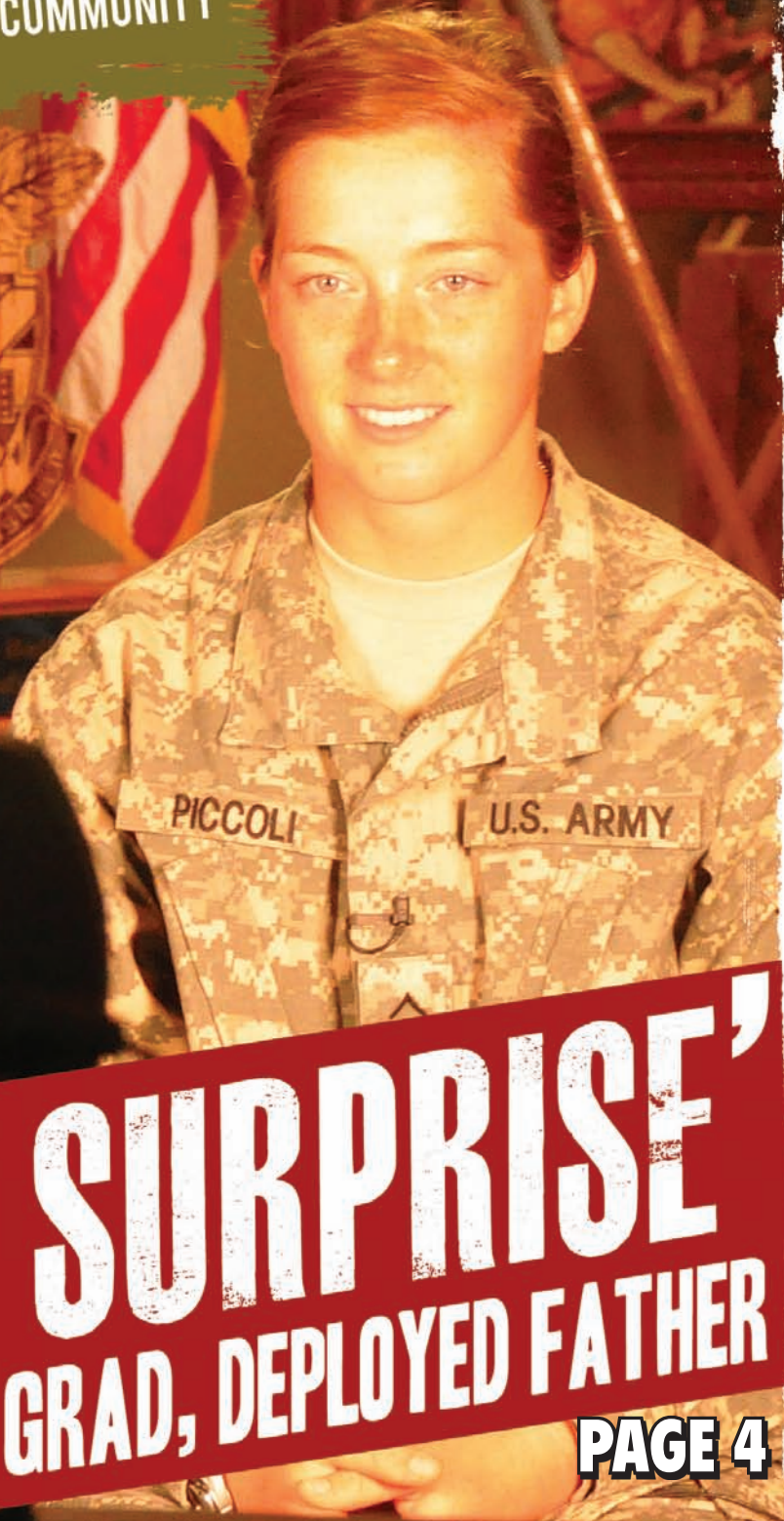


THURSDAY, OCT. 4, 2012

# THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

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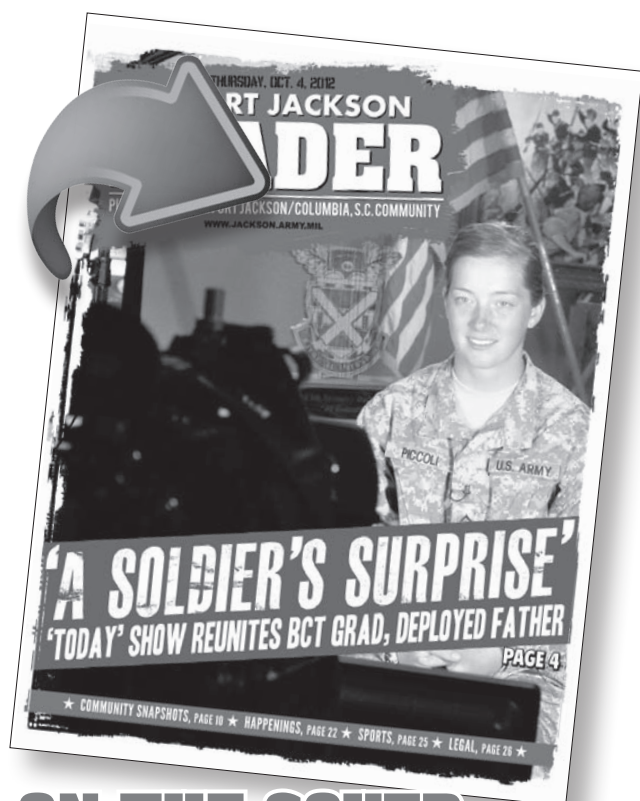


**'A SOLDIER'S SURPRISE'**  
**'TODAY' SHOW REUNITES BCT GRAD, DEPLOYED FATHER**

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## ON THE COVER

Photo by WALLACE MCBRIDE

Pvt. Victoria Piccoli takes part in a live segment of the Today Show last weekend, during which she received a surprise appearance by her father, a Marine deployed in Afghanistan. **SEE PAGE 4.**

### THE FORT JACKSON LEADER

PUBLISHED FOR THE FORT JACKSON, COLUMBIA, S.C. COMMUNITY  
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#### Fort Jackson, South Carolina 29207

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## COMMANDER'S CALL

# 'There is no excuse for domestic violence'

## Ending domestic violence a community effort

There is no excuse for domestic violence. This type of behavior cuts against the grain of our institution and Army Values. Domestic violence is also a crime.

Although most acts of domestic violence are classified as offenses under the United States Code, the Uniform Code of Military Justice and state laws, most of these crimes go unreported.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, domestic violence is the leading cause of injuries to women, ages 15 to 44, and more common than auto accidents, muggings and cancer combined. Approximately 7.8 million women have been raped by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.

A report released in September by the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence indicates that our state has jumped from seventh in the nation to second in the number of women murdered by men during a domestic dispute. These numbers point out that the rate of women murdered by men in South Carolina is nearly 2 in 100,000 people. As you already know, the Army's policy is zero tolerance when it comes to domestic violence.

Commanders are required by regulation to report allegations of abuse involving their Soldiers. Reporting is also mandatory for our installation law enforcement officials, school personnel, and Child, Youth and School Services personnel.

We have a variety of community services to help those experiencing stress resulting from relationships, finances, work or other areas of their lives. These services include New Parent Support, Stress and Anger Management, Victim Advocacy, Social Work Services, the Exceptional Family Member Program, and Family Life Chaplain Services. Reporting options are also available for those who have been victimized, to include the right to seek services confidentially.

Prevention plans are designed to defuse high-risk situations. Family Advocacy Victim Advocates, Unit Victim Advocates, New Parent Support-Home Visitors, the Sexual Assault Prevention programs are all in place to decrease the likelihood that violence will be repeated, by protecting victims and holding offenders accountable. They also provide extended services to address the negative effects of violence and abuse so individuals, couples and families can be rehabilitated.

Family advocacy programs are a primary resource for Army Families to learn these life skills. Additionally, our hospital has six licensed clinical social workers/providers available to provide treatment to prevent repeat offenses.

We have a growing initiative to work hand-in-hand with family advocacy specialists to raise awareness of domestic violence, educate military families about the signs of abuse and reinforce the negative effects domes-

tic abuse has on Army Family readiness while highlighting prevention and victim programs and services.

The theme chosen to highlight the importance of personal responsibility is "Don't turn your back on domestic violence." I encourage each of you to attend the ACS Family Advocacy Program event scheduled for Oct. 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers' Club. Mildred Muhammad, a domestic abuse survivor, author and

inspirational speaker, will talk about her experiences as a domestic abuse victim. She was married to the "D.C. Sniper," a serial killer who stalked Washington's beltways.

Ending domestic violence needs to be a joint effort. Collectively, we must support programs that bring about improved well-being for Soldiers, Families and

civilians. We must also adhere to our Army Values and our high standards of personal discipline, regardless of whether we are on duty or at home.

We must continue to seek ways to build on the quality of life for Families and not let their foundations be torn apart by senseless acts of aggression.

Army Strong and Victory Starts Here!

Victory 6

**By BRIG. GEN.  
BRYAN T. ROBERTS**

Fort Jackson  
Commanding General



If you know of abuse, speak up for those who are scared to speak up for themselves.



Follow Brig. Gen. Bryan T. Roberts at [www.facebook.com/FortJacksonCommandingGeneral](http://www.facebook.com/FortJacksonCommandingGeneral)



# Post observes suicide stand-down

By WALLACE McBRIDE  
Fort Jackson Leader

The Army took a collective stand against suicide Sept. 27 by holding a suicide prevention stand-down day.

The stand-down gave Soldiers, families and employees a break from their regular duties to discuss the growing problem of suicide in the Army.

Agencies and organizations throughout the Army staged educational activities to focus on reducing the stigma associated with seeking care for behavioral health issues, as well as providing members of the Army family an opportunity to familiarize themselves with health promotion, risk reduction and suicide prevention.

At the Fort Jackson Officers' Club, though, chaplains took a less-formal approach. Dozens of Soldiers and Army employees gathered for breakfast and lunch to talk about the problem.

"This is not ACE training," said Fort Jackson installation chaplain Col. Robert Warden, referring to the Army's "Ask, Care, Escort" initiative. "This is not official Army training. What we wanted to do is have a conversation. We're going to do some praying and spend about 30 minutes talking about suicide ... I have no idea where we will be going with that."

The event allowed for those in the audience to share their experiences and thoughts on the subject. Some of those who spoke up knew someone who had taken his or her own life. Others were concerned by the rising numbers of suicides in the Army in recent years.

It was reported that 26 active-duty Soldiers were believed to have killed themselves in July — the most suicides ever recorded in a month since the Army began tracking these figures.

"We never know what someone is going through," one participant said. "If you don't take the time to get to know your counterparts, you're missing out on some beautiful things."

Another said his lack of experience with the issue lead him to miss warning signs in a co-worker.

"I was seeing the hurt in her and didn't know what it was," he said. "But, I listened and she used her faith to get her through difficult times."



Photos by WALLACE McBRIDE

**Fort Jackson installation chaplain Col. Robert Warden, right, leads a discussion about issues related to suicide and its prevention Sept. 27 at the Fort Jackson Officers' Club.**

"Just say what comes from your heart," said another. "Make sure you provide a listening ear."

Brig. Gen. Bryan Roberts, Fort Jackson commanding general, was among those in attendance, and said the Army is taking a critical look at how depression and mental illness is managed.

"The Army is really grappling with this problem," he said. "We have to be intrusive leaders. We have to be intrusive friends. Through intrusive techniques you will learn if problems exist. There are signs you don't see if you aren't looking for them."

He urged those in the audience not to forget about the problem once the day's stand-down was complete.

"It can't be the end," he said. "I ask that we challenge ourselves to be ambassadors for suicide prevention."

Warden suggested Soldiers practice "situational awareness" with battle buddies. The practice can be as easy as simply asking open-ended questions about associates' welfare.

*Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil*



**Cpl. Dwan Contreras provides music for last week's Suicide Prevention Prayer Luncheon at the Fort Jackson Officers' Club.**





Photos by WALLACE McBRIDE

Above, Pvt. Victoria Piccoli gets ready for a television interview with the 'Today Show' as part of the feature 'Young Americans Answering the Call of Duty.' During the interview, the graduating Soldier was surprised when her father, a Marine deployed to Afghanistan, was introduced by 'Today' show reporter Lester Holt, left.

# 'SO PROUD OF MY DAD'

## Today Show reunites Soldier, deployed father during interview

By WALLACE McBRIDE  
Fort Jackson Leader

Pvt. Victoria Piccoli, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, was invited to take part in a live segment of the "Today" show titled "Young Americans Answering the Call of Duty" last Sunday. It was supposed to be a short segment on the show, a few minutes devoted to the goals of a young Soldier preparing to graduate from Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson. But, within moments of her interview with reporter Lester Holt via satellite in Kabul, Afghanistan, she got the shock of her life.

The interview quickly turned into a surprise conversation with her father as he stepped into the frame to stand next to the Holt.

The New Orleans native graduates from BCT today, but did not expect to see her father until long after graduation ceremonies. Marine Lt. Col Francis Piccoli is deployed in Afghanistan, his third combat mission since taking part in Operation Desert Storm more than 20 years ago.

She was at a loss for words for most of the interview.



Pvt. Victoria Piccoli, left, gets a hug from battle buddy Pvt. Jaclyn Onuschak following Sunday morning's television interview.

"I graduated," she told him as she fought back tears.

"I am incredibly proud of your generation, and you are a perfect example of the generation of American that came up behind us," Francis Piccoli told her. "When I retire, I know our defense is well taken care of. So good job, sweetheart. Excuse me — Soldier."

Sunday morning's effort took more than 30 people in three cities and two counties to organize, said Lori Daniel, producer for NBC News.

"There's twice the amount of crew people in Afghanistan than here at Fort Jackson," Daniel said. "They have satellite provisions just like we do, several producers, crew members and audio people. And then, of course, all of the people the military provides, as well."

"I had no clue," said Pvt. Jaclyn Onuschak, Piccoli's battle buddy, who was present for the interview. "I thought it was outstanding that they would do that for her. She was definitely surprised and definitely appreciated it. My mouth just dropped. I immediately started crying."

Because of his deployment in Afghanistan, Piccoli said she was worried she would not get to speak to her father before graduation.

"I'm overwhelmed with happiness," Piccoli said. "I even got to talk to my father on the telephone afterwards. I am so proud of my dad, and I am so proud of myself. I made it and I'm here to serve."

NBC wanted to broadcast the surprise interview as a way to keep Americans involved in ongoing overseas conflicts, Daniel said.

"These wars have been going on for so long that, sometimes, they become second nature," she said. "We have to remember the people there fighting for our freedoms. I think NBC put their money where their mouth is in terms of making sure (the war) stays in the consciousness of the United States."

Milton.W.McBride3.ctr@mail.mil



## News and Notes

### EXPRESS CHANGES HOURS

The new hours for the Gate 1 Express are as follows: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The new hours for the Gate 2 Express are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### NEW GATE HOURS ON TAP

Fort Jackson gates are now open as follows:

- ❑ Gate 2 — open around the clock.
- ❑ Gate 4 — 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; closed on weekends.
- ❑ Gate 5 — 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Sunday.
- ❑ Gate 1 — 5 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; closed on weekends. The gate will be open to outbound traffic until 9 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The new gate hours are temporary and a result of the transition of security guards from contractors to federal employees, which was mandated by Congress.

### DOG PARK OPEN TO COMMUNITY

A dog park is now open from dawn to dusk on Chestnut Road, next to the SKIES facility. The dog park is open to ID card holders.

# Alzheimer's march on tap

By **ANDREW MCINTYRE**  
*Fort Jackson Leader*

Volunteers across the state have joined the fight against Alzheimer's disease to raise awareness of the disease and to provide help for care givers.

The Alzheimer's Association will host the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" at Finlay Park, Oct. 20 to raise awareness for Alzheimer's disease.

"We are hoping for 600 walkers this year," said Ashton Houghton, vice president of development and communications for the Alzheimer's Association, South Carolina Chapter. "The walk is a great opportunity for the community. There are 80,000 people living with Alzheimer's here in South Carolina."

Many of those affected by the disease are veterans.

The Dorn VA Hospital and Governor's Office of Veterans' Affairs reported that more than 1,100 South Carolina veterans have been diagnosed in 2011 with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias.

A study by the DoD and the National Institute on Aging reported that there is a relationship between Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Alzheimer's disease, and other dementias in veterans 65 and older.

The study reflected that the veterans with PTSD were 77

percent more likely to develop dementia than those without it when risk factors related to Alzheimer's disease were included.

More than half of all Americans know someone with Alzheimer's disease. According to the Alzheimer's Association, every 68 seconds someone in America develops Alzheimer's.

Debbie Griffin, a volunteer, said she joined the organization because her mother suffers from the early stages of Alzheimer's.

"I didn't recognize the signs in my mother until I watched a tape that explained what to look for," Griffin said. "My mother told me she was trying to set the clock and by the time she got across the room she had forgotten what time it was."

Alzheimer's is the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Many volunteers of the Alzheimer's Association Midlands Chapter have joined the organization in hopes to make a difference for others.

"This is a disease that will affect everyone. We are just trying to make this a part of our community, and we also are wanted to make the Fort Jackson community aware as well," Griffin said.

For more information, visit: [www.alz.org/walk](http://www.alz.org/walk) or call 1-800-272-3900.

*Andrew.R.McIntyre.civ@mail.mil*

## Fort Jackson hosts job fair

About 800 job seekers came to the Solomon Center Friday to connect with employers at the installation's job fair. More than 90 employers were represented. The job fair was hosted by the Army Community Services Employment Readiness Program. It was open to military ID card holders.

*Photo by SUSANNE KAPPLER*



Watch Fort Jackson video news stories and Victory Updates at <http://www.vimeo.com/user3022628>

Like us on Facebook. Log on and search for "Fort Jackson Leader."

Follow the Leader on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao](http://www.twitter.com/fortjacksonpao).

# Insect-repelling ACUs now available

By DAVID VERGUN AND J.D. LEIPOLD

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Factory-treated, insect-repelling Army Combat Uniforms that until now were issued only to Soldiers deploying to Iraq, Afghanistan and some other overseas locations, will now be available to all Soldiers.

The new uniform, called the “ACU-P,” uses the chemical permethrin to ward off insects such as ticks, mosquitoes, fleas and chiggers. Permethrin has been extensively tested and found to be safe by the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, and Food and Drug Administration, said Col. Pearlline McKenzie-Garner, an occupational medicine physician in the Office of the Surgeon General.

“The Army’s battlefield experience shows that the EPA-approved permethrin fabric treatment ... protects the Soldier from diseases transmitted by a variety of pests, including fleas, ticks and mosquitoes,” said Lt. Col. Eugene Wallace, product manager for PEO Soldier, clothing and individual equipment. “It is also proven safe to wear. This is not just the Army saying this. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization both advocate the use of permethrin-treated clothing for people who may be exposed to insect-borne diseases.”

Wallace said that 25,000 Soldiers were surveyed about the uniform’s effectiveness at repelling insects and 85 percent of those surveyed said it works. The treatment helps stave off insect-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease and West Nile Virus.

Permethrin has been used by the Army for decades in a liquid or spray and also in a version that could be applied to a combat uniform.

According to Col. Shawn Lucas, a program manager with PEO Soldier, the problem with the liquid or spray was that Soldiers sometimes either forgot to apply it or they applied it in excessive amounts, which in a few cases caused rashes.

With the factory-treated ACU, the permethrin is applied consistently, and Soldiers no longer need to remember to apply a bug repellent, Lucas said.

Soldiers won’t have a choice in going permethrin-free the next time they buy new ACUs — all new uniforms will be treated with permethrin. For Soldiers with a medical reason to not have permethrin-treated uniforms, such as pregnancy, there is a special-order option to get ACUs without the treatment.

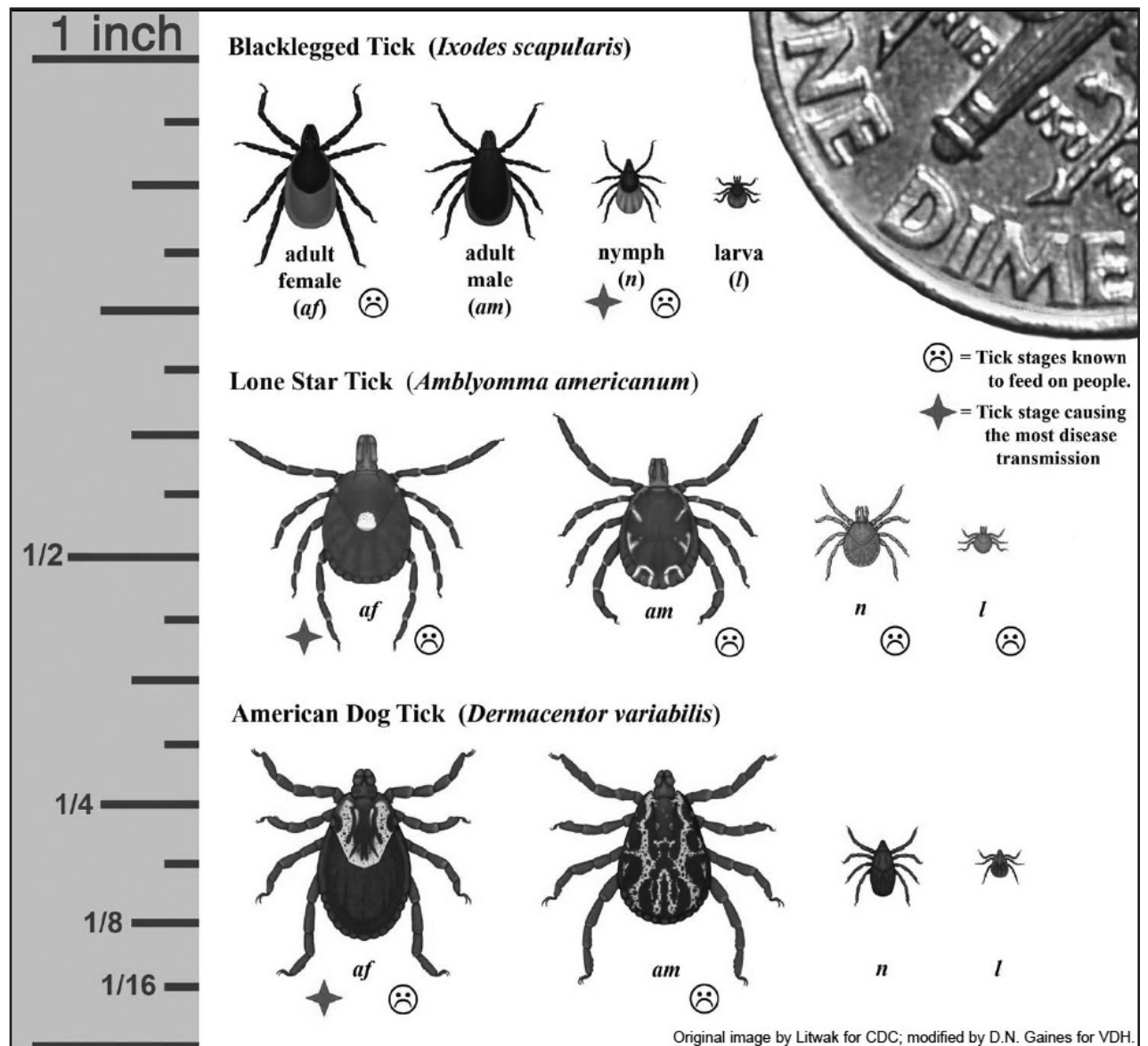


Photo illustration courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Beginning this month, Soldiers in the United States can purchase new Army Combat Uniforms treated with insect repellent that will help fight insect-borne illnesses such as Lyme disease and West Nile Virus, which are transmitted by ticks.**

McKenzie-Garner added that the ACU maternity uniform will remain permethrin-free.

ACU-Ps are good for about 50 launderings — the same as regular ACUs. The uniforms can be washed with normal laundry detergent, but should be washed separately from other clothing.

Lucas said the addition of permethrin to the uniform

increases the cost by about \$8, but Soldiers will not have to bear that additional expense because the uniform allowance has been increased to incorporate those production costs.

For more information on permethrin studies, visit [www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/) and keyword “permethrin” in the search engine at the top of the page.





Photos by SUSANNE KAPPLER

An electric candle is lit for each of the 295 Soldiers from South Carolina who has died while on active duty since 2001. Survivor Outreach Services hosted the Gold Star Mother's Day Luminary at the Lake Sunday at Semmes Lake.

# Fort Jackson honors fallen Soldiers

## Luminary displays at Semmes Lake mark Gold Star Mother's Day

By SUSANNE KAPPLER

Fort Jackson Leader

Families of fallen Soldiers came together Sunday evening in a ceremony at Semmes Lake to commemorate their loved ones. Two hundred and ninety five candles lined the pier — one for each Soldier from South Carolina who has died while on active duty since 2001.

"It means a lot to me. It means a lot to my wife. My son — tomorrow it would be two years since he got killed in Afghanistan," said Luther Rabon Sr., whose son, Sgt. Luther Rabon Jr., died Oct. 1, 2010, when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device.

It was the second time Fort Jackson's Survivor Outreach Services hosted the Gold Star Mother's Day Luminary at the Lake event. Leslie Smith, SOS coordinator, said it gives surviving family members and others in attendance a visual representation of how many Soldiers lost their lives.

"It just touches me every time I look at these lights reflecting off the water. It tells you how many Soldiers we've lost," Smith said.

In addition, it gives surviving family members an op-

portunity to connect with others who share a similar history.

"A lot of times they think they're in their own world," Smith said. "They don't get a chance to meet other mothers. Today, we have new fallen Soldiers' mothers here who are able to talk with the other mothers who have been doing this for a while."

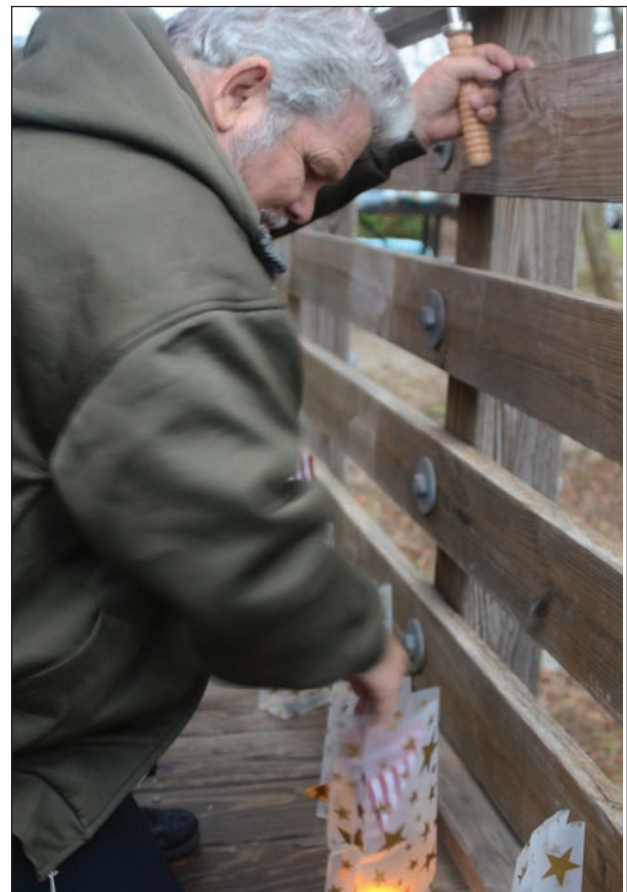
One of those mothers is Sharon Meador, whose son, Sgt. J.D. Meador, was one of three South Carolina National Guard Soldiers killed June 20 by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

"This is just wonderful — just to have something like that and everybody coming together to remember the men and women," Meador said. "I wouldn't want an elaborate thing like a dinner or anything like that. I like something simple like this. To me, it's more meaningful."

Smith said the most important message the event aims to convey to family members is that they are not forgotten.

"Family members need to know this. They really do," Smith said. "I talk to them frequently, and they'll say, 'I just thought we were forgotten.' One of our mothers said that to me the other day. I said, 'Absolutely not. You're not forgotten. Never.'"

*Susanne.Kappler1.ctr@mail.mil*



Luther Rabon Sr. lights a candle for his son, Sgt. Luther Rabon Jr., who was killed by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan Oct. 1, 2010.



UP CLOSE

# GREEN DAYS

## Soldiers compete for spots on All-Army Golf Team

The Fort Jackson Golf Club hosted this year's All-Army Golf Trials Saturday through Wednesday. Twenty two Soldiers competed for six spots on the team that will compete against the other service branches for the military championship title.

Right photo, James Snell, one of three Fort Jackson Soldiers to try out for the team, tees off at the 416-yard, par-4, second hole at the Wildcat Course Monday. Below left, Bryan Jan tees off. Below right, Sheila Sango is one of three women trying to earn a spot on the team.

*Photos by ANDREW McINTYRE*







Photos by SUSANNE KAPPLER

**SELF Symposium**

Left photo, Rolando Quinones Colon, a Taekwondo instructor, demonstrates self defense moves with the help of Melissa Seligman. The self defense class was part of the Spouses Embracing Life Fully Symposium Friday at the Solomon Center. The symposium offered numerous workshops focusing on physical, social, family, spiritual and emotional fitness. Right photo, Amber Cerchione prepares to break a plate as part of the ‘Breaking Issues’ workshop. Participants wrote issues they deal with on dishes before smashing them and creating artwork out of the broken pieces.



Photo by JULIA SIMPKINS, U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School

**Historic window installed**

Workers install a stained glass window from 1970 at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School Sept. 25. The window previously adorned the main entrance of the Post Chapel at Fort Monmouth, N.J., which closed in 2011. The window depicts Gen. George Washington and Soldiers of the Continental Army gathered at Valley Forge, Pa.



Photo by KARA MOTOSICKY, Public Affairs Office

**Honor Flight returns**

World War II veteran Kenneth Clark is greeted by well-wishers after his return from Washington at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport Sept. 26. Clark was among a group of veterans who took part in an Honor Flight to visit the World War II Memorial in Washington. The next Honor Flight is scheduled for Nov. 7.



# Early intervention key to treating depression

By **SABRIYA DENNIS**

*U.S. Army Public Health Command*

October is National Depression Education and Awareness Month. When feelings of sadness, anxiety or depression linger for long periods of time, it is possible that a person could be clinically depressed. Depression is a very common condition affecting more than 20 million adults in the United States each year.

The Army's suicide rate has increased significantly over the past five years. A diagnosis of depression is a risk factor that can contribute to suicidal thoughts, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Therefore, it is important to be attentive to signs of depression in others as well as oneself.

Depression is defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, as having five or more specified symptoms occur during the same two-week period and representing a change from the previous level of functioning. As part of the criteria, at least one of the symptoms has to be depressed mood or loss of interest or pleasure. The remaining symptoms are:

❑ Difficulty concentrating, remembering

## ON THE WEB

Screening tools, tips and more information about depression can be found at:

- ❑ Militarymentalhealth, [www.militarymentalhealth.org](http://www.militarymentalhealth.org)
- ❑ Help Yourself.Help Others, [www.helpyourselfhelpothers.org](http://www.helpyourselfhelpothers.org)
- ❑ Screening for Mental Health, [www.mentalhealthscreening.org](http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org)
- ❑ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov/Features/Depression/](http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Depression/)
- ❑ Helpguide, [www.helpguide.org](http://www.helpguide.org)

details, and making decisions.

- ❑ Decreased energy levels or feelings of fatigue.
- ❑ Persistent aches, pains, headaches, cramps or digestive problems.
- ❑ Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism.
- ❑ Experiencing feelings of guilt, worthlessness or helplessness.
- ❑ Suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts.
- ❑ Sleeping excessively, early morning wakefulness or insomnia.
- ❑ Irritability, restlessness.
- ❑ Overeating or loss of appetite.
- ❑ No interest in activities or hobbies once pleasurable, including sex.

Issues such as loneliness, financial

strain, lack of social support, relationship problems, unemployment, trauma, death of a loved one, alcohol or drug abuse, childhood abuse, family history of depression, health problems or a recent stressful life experience can place a person at risk for depression. Though everyone may experience one or more of these issues, not everyone will respond to them in the same way. The same is true for depression; not everyone experiences or exhibits depressive symptoms in the same manner. The following are common symptoms of depression for various groups:

- ❑ Men: fatigue, irritability, sleep problems, violence, reckless behavior and substance

abuse.

- ❑ Women: feelings of guilt, excessive sleeping, overeating and weight gain.

❑ Youth: Irritability, hostility, quick temperedness, unexplained aches and pain. If left untreated, these symptoms can lead to problems at home and school, or drug abuse.

Depression is treatable and beatable. Treatment for depression should be sought as early as possible so the person can return to a healthy lifestyle and minimize the risk of greater illness. Treatment for depression includes the use of antidepressant medications, psychotherapy or a combination of both.

If you or someone you know is in a crisis, seek help immediately.

- ❑ Call 911.

❑ Visit the emergency room or speak to a health care provider.

❑ Call 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255); TTY 1-800-799-4TTY (4889) to speak with a trained counselor. This is a 24-hour toll-free hotline provided by the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

If you are not sure if you or your loved one is experiencing depression, private screening tools are available online that provide immediate feedback.

## Columbus Day safety message

Columbus Day commemorates the spirit of exploration and the discovery of our great nation.

This holiday also provides a prime opportunity for our Soldiers, Civilians, and their Family members to relax and have fun. Whatever your plans, keep safety at the forefront. Know the risks, such as shorter daylight hours, and make the right decisions so that you have an accident-free weekend.

If you are traveling, whether on four wheels or two, do your part to protect lives by driving safely. Use your safety gear, watch your speed and avoid anything — drinking, lack of sleep, texting — that compromises your abilities. Check the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center's travel risk reduction tool, TRiPS, at <https://safety.army.mil> for more information.

On Sept. 27, along with the rest of the Army, IMCOM stood up for life. When it comes to suicide prevention, we are all in the fight together, everyday. Reach out to those facing personal issues. Talk to them and be the one who did the right thing.

If you are facing challenges in your life and think

**LT. GEN.  
MICHAEL FERRITER**

*IMCOM commander*

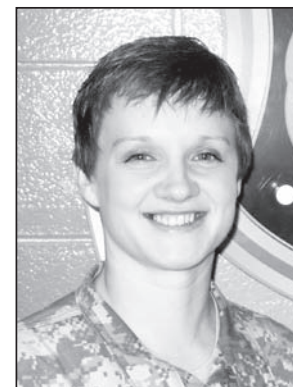


suicide is a solution, please talk to someone. Seeking help is a sign of courage. Prevention information is at <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/default.asp>. If you have immediate concerns, contact the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice and I thank each and every one of you for your commitment and outstanding service to our Soldiers, Families and Army. Take care of each other and have a safe and great Columbus Day.

Army Strong!

## Training honors



**CORNWELL**

**Warrant Officer  
Jacqueline Cornwell**

Distinguished honor graduate  
Warrant Officer Basic Course  
Adjutant General School



**ESMAEEL**

**Capt. (Kuwait)  
Esmaeel Esmaeel**

International honor graduate  
Warrant Officer Basic Course  
Adjutant General School



# Army tightens fitness standards for PME

By C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Pre-war height, weight and physical fitness standards are coming back for Soldiers entering professional military education courses on or after Nov. 1.

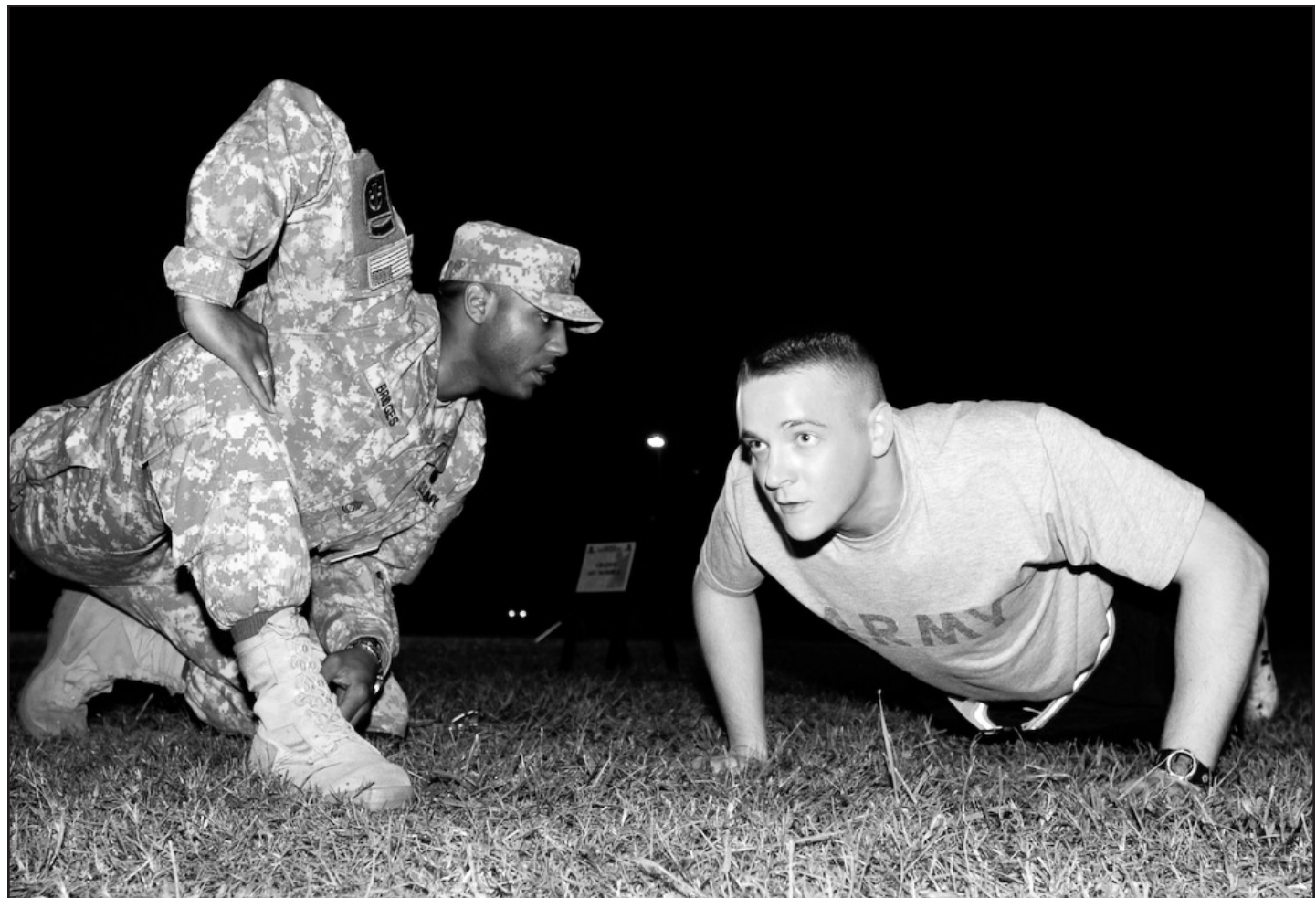
The short explanation is: Soldiers who are heavier than they should be, or who cannot meet the Army's physical fitness standards are not going to get into the professional military education, or PME, course they are scheduled to attend.

The standards had been waived because the Army needed as many Soldiers as possible trained for the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts — but that is no longer the case.

“In 2007, when the Army was fighting two simultaneous conflicts, we instituted a physical fitness waiver for institutional training courses,” said Brig. Gen. Todd McCaffrey, director of Army training. “This ensured Soldiers attending these courses received the required education and relevant operational and combat skills training, regardless of temporary fitness issues or post-deployment recovery and reset cycles. We accepted this risk, rather than send an untrained or unschooled Soldier back to the units.”

Now, McCaffrey said, the Army can afford to have Soldiers who meet both the training and fitness standards.

According to a message sent to all Army activities, PME courses affected include the Senior Service College, the Sergeants Major Academy, the Joint Special Operation Forces Senior Enlisted Academy, the Captains Career Course, intermediate level education, the Warrant Officer Advance Course, the Warrant Officer Staff Course, the Warrant Officer



Army photo

**Sgt. Nicholas Johnson, U.S. Forces Korea Soldier of the Year, finishes the pushup portion of the Army Physical Fitness Test during the 6th Annual Department of the Army Best Warrior Competition, Oct. 3, 2011, at Fort Lee, Va.**

Senior Staff Course, the Advanced Leaders Course, the Senior Leaders Course, and the Warrior Leader Course.

The policy change applies equally to courses taught in-residence and by mobile training teams.

Soldiers who are identified to attend these courses and schools will get an initial Army physical fitness test, height

and weight screening. Those who do not pass the initial test will be allowed one retest.

Soldiers who don't meet requirements after the second test will be removed from the course. Their service school academic evaluation report will also be annotated “failed to achieve course standards.”

“Re-establishing the Army physical

fitness test and height/weight standards into our professional military education programs reinforces the efforts the Army's senior leaders have been emphasizing on standards based training and education,” McCaffrey said.

More information regarding the policy change can be found at [http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/ad2012\\_20.pdf](http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/ad2012_20.pdf).



# Saluting this Basic Combat Training cycle's honorees

## DRILL SERGEANTS OF THE CYCLE



**Staff Sgt.**  
**Eric Oberndorf**  
Company D  
2nd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Ryan Eskew

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. William Beimler

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Pvt. Kylianne Lowe

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. Brayden Castle



**Staff Sgt.**  
**Jason Abitua**  
Company E  
2nd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Whitney Merrill

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Todd Anderson

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Pvt. Jason Jacques

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. Zachary Rains



**Staff Sgt.**  
**Rose Rodriguez**  
Company F  
2nd Battalion,  
13th Infantry Regiment

**SOLDIER LEADER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pfc. Mitchell Woolridge

**SOLDIER OF THE CYCLE**  
Pvt. Aaron Winberg

**HIGH APFT SCORE**  
Pvt. Jamaine Jackson

**HIGH BRM**  
Pvt. Destin McNutt

# Training honors



**JOHNSTON**

**2nd Lt.**  
**Letha Johnston**  
Distinguished honor graduate  
Basic Officer Leader Course  
Adjutant General School



**ALMADHI**

**Capt. (Saudi Arabia)**  
**Abdullah M. Almadhi**  
International honor graduate  
Basic Officer Leader Course  
Adjutant General School



**SCHMITT**

**2nd Lt.**  
**Elizabeth Schmitt**  
Distinguished honor graduate  
Basic Officer Leader Course  
Adjutant General School

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Community announcements should be typed and no more than 45 words. All submissions may be edited to comply with *Leader* style and Public Affairs regulations. Send all submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com). For more information, call 751-7045.

For information about classified advertising, contact Camden Media Co. at 432-6157. Classified ads may also be faxed to 432-7609 or emailed to [sbranh@ci-camden.com](mailto:sbranh@ci-camden.com).

For information about display advertising, contact Kathy at 786-5681.

The Leader welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should include the name and hometown of the writer. Letters should also include a phone number for verification purposes.

# October Promotions

| Name                  | Rank | Name                  | Rank | Name                  | Rank |
|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|------|
| DEPERT, Phillip J.    | COL  | SLAUGHTER, Nichole E. | CPT  | MILLER, David M.      | SFC  |
| EDWARDS, William L.   | COL  | FIEDLER, James E.     | CW4  | MILLER, Melinda M.    | SFC  |
| GONZALEZ, Raul E.     | COL  | TOWNSEND, Annette C.  | SGM  | MULLEN, John E.       | SFC  |
| MURRIL, Terrence L.   | COL  | BELL, Christopher D.  | MSG  | PONCE, David B.       | SFC  |
| ZOLLINGER, Todd M.    | COL  | BELL, Samuel D.       | MSG  | REYNOLDS, Jon P.      | SFC  |
| DUPREE, Jefrey G.     | MAJ  | GARRETT, Rufus W.     | MSG  | ROBB, Stephenson P.   | SFC  |
| FINNEY, Nathan K.     | MAJ  | KELLY, Dennis         | MSG  | SATTERLA, Austin D.   | SFC  |
| HOWARD, Demetrius D.  | MAJ  | RUSSELL, Damien L.    | MSG  | SHERMAN, Nelson T.    | SFC  |
| MOREHEAD, Benjamin T. | MAJ  | ADAMS, Catherine M.   | SFC  | SMITH, Shekira L.     | SFC  |
| PAYNE, Brian C.       | MAJ  | APPLETON, Melanie D.  | SFC  | TKACHEVA, Victoria S. | SFC  |
| WERRY, Kevin G.       | MAJ  | BARBER, Shawn E.      | SFC  | ADAMS, Rhiannon A.    | SSG  |
| KANG, Daniel D.       | MAJ  | BARILLAS, Patrick E.  | SFC  | BARNES, Brandy L.     | SSG  |
| STRONG, Thomas R.     | MAJ  | BERRY, Jamal J.       | SFC  | BIRDWELL, Timothy J.  | SSG  |
| BALVANZ, Joseph R.    | CPT  | BREWER, Nathan L.     | SFC  | BROOKS, Jessica J.    | SSG  |
| BOYD, Angela D.       | CPT  | DUKES, Lorenzo D.     | SFC  | COLLINS, Michael A.   | SSG  |
| BRYANT, Adam K.       | CPT  | EVANS, Michael A.     | SFC  | HOLLIS, Melvin B.     | SSG  |
| CLASS, Jessie         | CPT  | GUTIERREZ, Marcus L.  | SFC  | LEE, Decarlo T.       | SSG  |
| LINTON, Michael A.    | CPT  | LEBRON, Robert        | SFC  | THOMPSON, Joey B.     | SSG  |
| MONIGAN, Karen J.     | CPT  | LEGETTE, Keith L.     | SFC  |                       |      |

# Leader deadlines

Article submissions are due two weeks before publication.  
For example, an article for the Oct. 18 Leader must be submitted by today.

Announcement submissions are due one week before publication.

For example, an announcement for the Oct. 18 Leader must be submitted by Oct. 11.

Send your submissions to [FJLeader@gmail.com](mailto:FJLeader@gmail.com).  
For more information, call 751-7045.



ACS Calendar of Events — October

THURSDAY, OCT. 4

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **Instructor-led computer training — introduction to MS Word 2007** — 9 a.m. to noon; Education Center, Room B-110; to register, call 751-4862
- ❑ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

TUESDAY, OCT. 9

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; Main Post Library

THURSDAY, OCT. 11

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **Instructor-led computer training — intermediate MS Word 2007** — 9 a.m. to noon; Education Center, Room B-110; to register, call 751-4862
- ❑ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

FRIDAY, OCT. 12

- ❑ **EFMP pumpkin patch outing** — 4:30 to 7 p.m.; 3401 Trenholm Road; to RSVP, call 751-5256

MONDAY, OCT. 15

- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

TUESDAY, OCT. 16

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.;

Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; Main Post Library

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 17

- ❑ **Financial readiness for first term junior enlisted Soldiers** — 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Education Center, Room B-206
- ❑ **Explore careers in the information technology field** — 1 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862

THURSDAY, OCT. 18

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **Financial planning for initial PCS move and relocation readiness** — 9 to 10:30 a.m.; Education Center, Room B-206
- ❑ **Instructor-led computer training — introduction to MS PowerPoint 2007** — 9 a.m. to noon; Education Center, Room B-110; to register, call 751-4862
- ❑ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **EFMP state fair outing** — 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; 1200 Rosewood Drive; to RSVP, call 751-5256

MONDAY, OCT. 22

- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

TUESDAY, OCT. 23

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; Main Post Library

THURSDAY, OCT. 25

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.;

Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

- ❑ **Instructor-led computer training — intermediate MS PowerPoint 2007** — 9 a.m. to noon; Education Center, Room B-110; to register, call 751-4862
- ❑ **Phase II Levy overseas brief** — 10 to 11 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **Stateside Levy brief** — 11 a.m. to noon; Strom Thurmond Building; Room 222
- ❑ **Budgeting, banking and checkbook maintenance** — 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.; Education Center, Room B-206; to RSVP, call 751-2800
- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 12:30 to 3 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **Total Army sponsorship training** — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 213
- ❑ **EFMP clothing swap** — 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.; Community Center; to RSVP, call 751-5256

MONDAY, OCT. 29

- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222

TUESDAY, OCT. 30

- ❑ **Inprocessing/re-entry brief** — 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **Steps to federal employment** — 9 a.m. to noon; location to be determined; to register, call 751-4862
- ❑ **English as a second language class** — 5 to 7 p.m.; Main Post Library

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31

- ❑ **Job searching strategies** — time to be determined; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222
- ❑ **Explore careers in the information technology field** — 1 to 2 p.m.; Strom Thurmond Building, Room 222; to register, call 751-4862

All ACS classes require registration and are subject to change. To register, call 751-5256/4862/6325.

Free child care may be available for events. For more information on child care, call 751-1124.



Calendar

*Today*  
**120th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) organizational day**  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Weston Lake

*Wednesday*  
**AG Corps Regimental Association, Carolina Chapter meeting**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Magruders Pub & Club

*Thursday, Oct. 11*  
**Car seat safety inspections**  
1 to 5 p.m., Fort Jackson Fire Station

*Friday, Oct. 12*  
**AUSA Palmetto Chapter golf tournament**  
1 p.m., Fort Jackson Golf Club  
For more information, email [sbbutler@bellsouth.net](mailto:sbbutler@bellsouth.net).

*Friday, Oct. 12*  
**Garden plots volunteers and committee members meeting**  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Moncrief Army Community Hospital, Room D-1, Building 106  
For more information, call 629-5589.

*Saturday, Oct. 13*  
**Breast cancer awareness 5K run/walk**  
9 a.m., Hilton Field Softball Complex  
Registration is open 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Participants are encouraged to wear pink.

*Saturday, Oct. 13*  
**Hispanic Heritage Month celebration**  
11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Patriot Park

*Friday, Oct. 26*  
**Domestic Abuse Awareness Month event**  
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Officers' Club  
The guest speaker will be Mildred Muhammad. Tickets cost \$9.50. For more information and to register, call 751-6325.

*Friday, Oct. 26*  
**Fall festival**  
7 to 9 p.m., Solomon Center  
No scary costumes. Transportation will be provided from the Solomon Center to the Haunted Room at the Youth Services Center. For more information, call 751-4865.

Announcements

**HOMESCHOOLING WORKSHOP**  
A free two-hour workshop on homeschooling is scheduled for 10 a.m., Oct. 23 at

th the Joe E. Mann Center conference room. For more information and to register, call 751-6150 and select "option 1."

**DENTAC CLOSURE**  
DENTAC will be closed today for organizational day activities. Sick call will be available from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Patients with serious emergencies that arise after 10 a.m. should report to the Urgent Care Clinic at Moncrief Army Community Hospital. Normal hours will resume Friday.

**COMMISSARY REWARDS CARD**  
The Commissary Reward Card is now available at the store. The card lets customers access digital coupons and redeem them in any commissary. To register the card, visit [www.commissaries.com/rewards/index.cfm](http://www.commissaries.com/rewards/index.cfm).

**RECLAMATION SALE**  
A military clothing reclamation sale is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Nov. 1 and 2, at 2570 Warehouse Row. The cash-only sale is open to military personnel of all ranks and to military retirees. For more information, call 751-7213.

**DHR CLOSURE**  
All Directorate of Human Resources offices, including the ID card offices, will close at 10:30 a.m., Oct. 19 for organizational day activities. For ID card emergencies, three alternate locations are available: The Soldier Family Assistance Center, 751-1198; Shaw Air Force Base, 895-1596; and the South Carolina National Guard Center, 806-2078. Normal hours will resume Oct. 22.

**BLACKHAWK BALL**  
The 171st Infantry Brigade will host its annual Blackhawk Ball at 6 p.m., Nov. 2 at the DoubleTree hotel in Columbia. The guest speaker will be TRADOC Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Dailey. Tickets cost \$40. To RSVP, call 751-3319 or 751-3301.

**ABSENTEE BALLOT INFORMATION**  
Soldiers can access the federal write-in absentee ballot at <http://fvap.gov/reference/forms.html>. Unit voting assistance officers can answer questions about voting deadlines.

**AG CORPS SEVENTIES PARTY**  
The Adjutant General's Corps Regimental Association, Carolina Chapter will host a 70s party from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Oct. 19 at the Joe E. Mann Center. Tickets cost \$15 and must be purchased in advance. For ticket information,

email [denise.grantbradley@us.army.mil](mailto:denise.grantbradley@us.army.mil).

**RECYCLE DAY CONTEST**  
Help celebrate Recycle Day Nov. 15 by submitting items made from recycled materials to the Environmental Management Branch. Prizes will be awarded to the best items submitted. For more information, call 751-5971 or email [lisa.a.mcknight11.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:lisa.a.mcknight11.ctr@mail.mil).

**MACH WEIGHT MANAGEMENT**  
The Pathway is a free weight management program provided by Moncrief Army Community Hospital's Nutrition Clinic. Introductory classes are offered 10 to 11 a.m. and 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., the first Wednesday of the month at MACH, Room 8-85. Support group meetings take place 6:15 to 7:15 p.m., the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at MACH, fourth floor dining facility. For more information, call 751-2489.

**THRIFT SHOP NEWS**  
Donations can be dropped off any time. To get a receipt, drop off your donations during business hours.  
The Thrift Shop will hold a weekly football drawing throughout football season.  
The Thrift Shop is accepting Halloween items through Oct. 18.  
The Thrift Shop is accepting Thanksgiving items through Nov. 8.

Visit the community calendar at [www.jackson.army.mil](http://www.jackson.army.mil) for a full listing of calendar events. Send your announcements to [fjleader@gmail.com](mailto:fjleader@gmail.com).  
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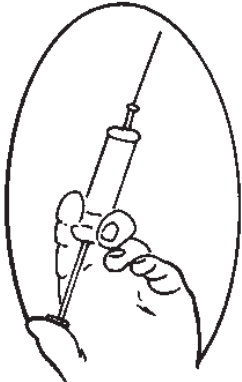
LEGAL NOTICE

Anyone with debts owed to or by the estate of Sgt. 1st Class Roderick Keith Harris must contact Capt. Tamiko M. Campbell, the summary court martial officer for the Soldier. Harris passed away Sept. 22 in Columbia. To contact Campbell, call 751-3413 or email [Tamiko.M.Campbell@us.army.mil](mailto:Tamiko.M.Campbell@us.army.mil).

FLU SHOTS

Moncrief Army Community Hospital is offering free influenza vaccines to military ID card holders. Flu shots will be offered at the following locations:

- Solomon Center:** Oct. 15, 22 and 29; 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Nov. 5, 19 and 26, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  - Commissary:** Nov. 13, 15, 20, 27 and 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - Exchange:** Nov. 16 and 30, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Vaccines for children younger than 4 will be available at MACH, Room 6-39.



**Friday, Oct. 5 — 6:30 p.m.**  
Sparkle PG-13

**Saturday, Oct. 6 — 2 p.m.**  
Sparkle PG-13

**Sunday, Oct. 7 — 2 p.m.**  
Hit and Run R

**Wednesday, Oct. 10 — 1 p.m.**  
Hit and Run R

**Wednesday, Oct. 10 — 4 p.m.**  
The Campaign R

For more listings, visit [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) or call 751-7488.



Sports shorts

HALLOWEEN HOWL

The Halloween Howl 5K/10K is scheduled for 8 a.m., Oct. 27. Registration begins Oct. 9.

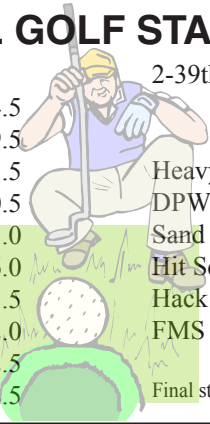
The event is open to all ID card holders. Pets and bikes are not allowed. For more information, call 751-3096.

BOWLING

Commander’s Cup bowling for active-duty teams is scheduled for Nov. 2, 5 and 6. Names of team members are due 3 p.m., Oct. 25. Each battalion may have up to three teams of four Soldiers. For more information, call 751-5768.

FALL GOLF STANDINGS

| Active duty |        | 2-39th        | 170.0  |
|-------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| 120th       | 1204.5 |               |        |
| 2-60th      | 1029.5 |               |        |
| 3-34th      | 953.5  | Heavy Hitters | 1114.0 |
| 1-34th      | 810.5  | DPW           | 1012.5 |
| TFM         | 793.0  | Sand Baggers  | 870.5  |
| The Hood    | 636.0  | Hit Squad     | 794.5  |
| 1-61st      | 611.5  | Hack Attack   | 771.0  |
| 4-10th      | 562.0  | FMS           | 535.0  |
| 187th       | 432.5  |               |        |
| MEDDAC      | 248.5  |               |        |

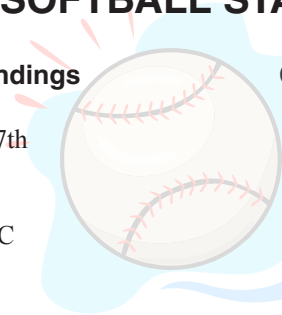


Recreational

Final standings

SOFTBALL STANDINGS

| Fall standings |             | Commander’s Cup standings |             |
|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| 1st            | RRS         | 1st                       | 120th/187th |
| 2nd            | 120th/187th | 2nd                       | 4/10th      |
| 3rd            | 4/10th      | 3rd                       | 1-61st      |
| 4th            | 1-61st      | 4th                       | MEDDAC      |
| 5th            | MEDDAC      |                           |             |



Final standings

SAND VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

| Black league   |     | Gold league    |     |
|----------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Blackhawks     | 3-0 | MEDDAC, Team 3 | 2-0 |
| MEDDAC, Team 1 | 2-1 | 1-61st, Team 2 | 1-1 |
| 1-61st, Team 1 | 2-2 | 1-34th         | 1-1 |
| Gurlz Rule     | 1-2 | MEDDAC, Team 2 | 0-2 |
| BOSS           | 0-3 | 2-60th         | out |

Standings as of Tuesday



# Don't become a victim of scammers

When service members board a plane to return to the United States from deployment overseas, their families and friends are not the only ones waiting for them. Scam artists are also busy setting up store fronts, phone lines and websites specifically targeting service members.

These predators know that service members have to deal with unique pressures, such as spending extended periods of time abroad, moving to different cities multiple times, and being held to a higher standard for debt repayment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. In addition, service members are known for having a steady income and trying to do what is best for their families.

At the Department of Justice, we are working hard to protect consumers like you. The Civil Division's Consumer Protection Branch has made fighting fraud aimed at service members and veterans a top priority.

We are working internally with the Department's Civil Rights Division to ensure that businesses respect the rights of service members. And we are working externally with agencies such as the DoD and VA to identify potential fraud earlier.

We are also collaborating with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office of Servicemember Affairs to engage in a dialogue with military leadership about how we can prevent this fraud together.

And we have joined forces with federal and state prosecutors — as well as the Judge Advocate General Corps — to identify scammers and bring more cases against them.

We are committed to using all of the tools at our disposal to hold these swindlers responsible. But the best way to fight them is to deprive them of customers. Ser-

## COMMENTARY

By Stuart Delery

*Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice*



vice members of each military branch have told us about their experiences, and we are dedicated to getting their message out.

Here are a few tips on how to protect yourself and your family:

### BE WARY OF UP-FRONT FEES

*The sales pitch:* "I can help you access benefits, get a good rate on a loan, and make a great investment. All you need to do is pay me an up-front fee."

*The defense:* The military offers legal assistance, interest free emergency loans, and financial planning tools. Ask your military installation offices for details.

### FIND OUT WHAT THE TOTAL IS

*The sales pitch:* "I'll sell you this car, refrigerator, or anything else you want. Just give me a little bit of money every installment."

*The defense:* Salespeople can offer misleading information about how much something really costs once all the payments and fees are totaled. If the total is too high, take your business elsewhere.

### DON'T BELIEVE PROMISES

*The sales pitch:* "Just buy the car with this higher interest rate, and I'll call you later once I get the lower rate interest for you."

*The defense:* Make sure that everyone agrees to the final terms of a deal before you hand over any money.

### RESEARCH THE COMPANY, INDIVIDUAL

*The sales pitch:* "I'm a veteran of the armed forces. Sign up with my program to make sure that your family has everything they need while deployed overseas."

*The defense:* Ask your post community-service office about the company or individual. You can also contact the Better Business Bureau.

And, if you have been the victim of a scam, we encourage you to file a complaint. Often, financial fraud goes unreported because victims feel embarrassed or foolish. But only when you complain is it possible for you to get the help you need. And only when we know there is a problem, we and our law enforcement partners work to stop it.

So, consult your military installation's Legal Assistance Office or your state attorney general and *log your complaint at* [www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov) or at [www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/).

With your help, we can continue to ramp up our fight against those who prey on the financial well-being of you and your families, and leave you free to focus on your invaluable work protecting the nation.

To contact the Fort Jackson Legal Assistance Office, call 751-4287.

Thank you for your service.